

House Republican Press Release

November 17, 2005
Press Office: 860-240-8700

Sen . Kissel, Rep. Bacchiochi Delighted with Somers Open Space Grant



State Senator John A. Kissel (R-7th) and State Representative Penny Bacchiochi (R-52nd) were delighted with the announcement of a \$450,000 Open Space Grant for the town of Somers. The funding was part of the 11th round of Open Space Grant Awards and was announced by Governor M. Jodi Rell and Department of

Environmental Protection Commissioner Gina McCarthy at a ceremony held this afternoon in Norwalk.

“I would like to thank Governor Rell and Commissioner McCarthy for their continued commitment to preserving Connecticut’s environment in Northern Connecticut and throughout the state,” said Senator Kissel, who serves as a Deputy Minority Leader. “With the legislature, the Governor, and DEP all working collectively, we can continue to help maintain all the wonderful environmental treasures Connecticut has to offer for future generations.”

“This grant will ensure that the Whitaker Woods property is preserved in its natural state in perpetuity. It also will mean the trail system in Somers can be linked to the trails on Soapstone Mountain and the Blue Trail. It will widen the options available to Blue Trail hikers and provide new recreational opportunities for the residents of northeast Connecticut and nature lovers from throughout the region,” Representative Bacchiochi said.

The funding will help the state acquire Whitaker Woods, a 286-acre plot of land located in the eastern part of Somers and adjacent to a portion of Shenipiset State Forest and Northern Connecticut Land Trust Property. The property consists of rolling hills, mixed hardwood and softwood forested lands, 18 acres of open pasture, and two vernal pools.

\$6.8 Million in grants was awarded today to twenty-four towns across the state of Connecticut.